



Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes for
5/17/17



FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Annie Jones, Jennifer Bird, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Tim Jones, Elizabeth Peterson, Ron Hardman, Kathy Kinsey, Rachel Armistead, John Ferri

OSER: Suzanne Cliber

Public: Jim Morrow, Diane Fouche

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. The Chair (Annie Jones) welcomed all FCSC members and guests.

II. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

A. Introduction.

1. EPP: Goal to help the County with environmentally preferable purchasing.
2. Jan Gardener signed the memo approving for the Commission to research EPP and help the County find good opportunities.
3. The County is doing EPP informally, but no official policy exists.
4. As the County expands EPP, municipalities may be able to as well.

B. Diane Fouche, Director, Purchasing Department

1. County Executive announced today that the County Sustainability Office has moved to a more prominent position in the County.
2. Some agencies within the County are very environmentally friendly.
3. County uses recycled office supplies, printer cartridges, furniture. The County donates used office furniture to nonprofits. Janitorial supplies are first level green products. Copiers and printers set to Auto Duplex to minimize paper use. Beginning to use foamed asphalt for roads to reuse material and improve air quality. No toxic materials are used in this process. Also less expensive and can be driven on as soon as it's laid. The County also uses "recycled roads". Non VOC paints are used in county facilities. Energy star appliances and LED bulbs are used.
4. County does not spec "non-green" alternatives if they want a green item/service.
5. Will a life cycle cost analysis by FCSC assist the County? County is coded for low bid. Legislation may be needed to allow for life costs to be considered where feasible.

6. Landscaping in County: reseeding, drip irrigation, composting of plant debris, native plants, concrete substitutes. Parks and Rec uses location tolerant plants.
7. Recommendations: A county code for EPP would be a good starting place for moving forward. FCSC could look for ways to include EPP in updating the county purchasing code.

III. Vice Chair Items

A. Approval of April minutes.

1. Approval of April Minutes. Tim made a motion to accept the minutes, Liz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by an unofficial majority.

B. Review Action Items

1. EPP meeting on May 25 to help local municipalities learn how to leverage County contracts and use EPP. The meeting is in conjunction with Sustainable MD.

IV. Solar Bill Update and Discussion

A. Solar Bill passed on May 16, 2017.

1. 10% of tillable acreage verbiage remained in the bill.
2. Starting point for solar array facilities in the County.

V. Sustainability Indicators

A. Environmental Sustainability

1. Renewable energy credits, tons of waste generated and recycled, LEED buildings, watershed restoration acreage, number of vehicles traveling on county roads, and others
2. Suggestions for new indicators: county electric vehicles, number of green schools, miles driven vs EV miles driven vs no miles (teleworking), water usage/waste

B. Socio-economic Sustainability

1. Suggestions – broadband connections, quality of life, average commute times, public transportation usage

C. To update indicators, track yearly and include a link to the reference used.

VI. Waste and Composting Update

A. Frederick City is moving forward with a composting initiative. The County is considering a joint task force. FCSC would like to have a voice in the task force.

1. Any initiative or pilot will likely include local restaurants.
2. What's Next meeting May 18 in Winchester Hall.
3. Compost Summit scheduled for May 22 at Fox Haven Farm.

VII. OSER and Livable Frederick: EE Work Group Updates

A. Reforestation Program has begun.

1. Goal to reforest 85 acres. Private properties would sell easements to the County. 60 acres currently on tap.

B. Applied for grant to do Brook Trout habitat improvements.

C. Green Neighbor Festival scheduled for Saturday.

VIII. Commission Members Items of Interest

Ron K – Gave climate change presentation in Middletown. Joe R. hosted sustainability and environmental program for magnet students on Bar T. May do climate presentation for the school.

Annie – trying to schedule field trip to Bar T. Maybe in the fall. Ideas for field trip?

Tim – When doing volunteer work in the public, get a photo and we can give input to the green pages in FNP and on our Facebook page.

Elizabeth – Bioblitz event was fun with Salamander and deer print discoveries.

Tom – Agrees with Tim on sharing info. Thurmont green team planted trees on Earth Day to replace dying ash trees. Last Saturday helped train local high schools for an environmental competition.

Rachel – Farmers Market Saturdays from 10 -1. Sweet Farm is buying the Senior Cottage from FCC.

Public Comments

Guest – Are there LEED certified buildings in the County? – Catocin Nature Center built to standards. Other LEED buildings are in the County as well.

Action Items:

8-18-16. Choose water quality/watershed indicators to help develop sustainability goals.

10-10-15. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join.

10-8-15. County Green Teams: Ron has assembled a comprehensive list that includes municipalities with teams and contact information shown.

Adjournment: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.